

METHOD OF FORMING RELAXED SiGe LAYER

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Related Application

This application is a continuation-in-part of U. S. Patent Application Serial No.

10 10/062,319 filed January 31, 2002, for *Method to form relaxed SiGe layer with high Ge content.*

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to high speed CMOS integrated circuits, and specifically to the incorporation of an irradiated relaxed SiGe layer in such an IC.

Background of the Invention

15 In enhanced mobility MOSFET device applications, thick, relaxed $Si_{1-x}Ge_x$ buffer layers have been used as virtual substrates for thin, strained silicon layers to increase carrier mobility for both NMOS, K. Rim *et al.*, *Strained Si NMOSFETs for High Performance CMOS Technology*, 2001 Symposium on VLSI Technology Digest of Technical Papers, p. 59, (IEEE 2001), and PMOS, Deepak K. Nayak *et al.*, *High-Mobility Strained-Si PMOSFETs*, IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices, Vol. 43, 1709 (1996), devices. Compared with bulk silicon devices, enhancement in electron mobility of 70% for devices with $L_{eff} < 70nm$ have been reported, Rim *et al.*, *supra*. Enhancements of up to 40% in high-field hole mobility for long-channel devices have also been reported. Nayak *et al.*, *supra*. The predominant technique currently in use to produce a high quality relaxed $Si_{1-x}Ge_x$ buffer layer is the growth of a several μm thick, 20 compositionally graded, layer, Rim *et al.* and Nayak *et al.*, *supra*. However, the density of 25

threading dislocations using this technique is still high, *e.g.*, $>10^6$ cm⁻². In addition, the integration of a several μ m thick $\text{Si}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x$ layer into MOS device fabrication is not very practical because of high fabrication costs.

Alternative methods to efficiently relax strained SiGe layers on silicon have been attempted, based on the SmartCut™ process, employing atomic hydrogen implantation, M.K. Weldon *et al.*, *On the Mechanism of the Hydrogen-Induced Exfoliation of Silicon*, J. Vac. Sci. Technol. B. 15, 1065, (1997), for the fabrication of high-quality silicon-on-insulator (SOI) wafers, atomic hydrogen (H⁺) implantation, followed by an appropriate anneal, has been used to increase the degree of SiGe relaxation and to reduce the density of threading dislocations, S. Mantl *et al.*, *Strain Relaxation of Epitaxial SiGe Layers on Si(100) Improved by Hydrogen Implantation*, Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research B 147, 29, (1999), and U.S. Patent No. 6,464,780 B1, granted October 15, 2002, to Mantl *et al.*, for *Method for the Production of a Monocrystalline Layer on a Substrate with a Non-Adapted Lattice and Component Containing One or Several such Layers*, H. Trinkaus *et al.*, *Strain Relaxation Mechanism for Hydrogen-Implanted Si_{1-x}Ge_x/Si(100) Heterostructures*, Appl. Phys. Lett., 76, 3552, (2000), and the above-identified related U. S. Patent Application. Helium implantation, followed by an anneal step, has also been explored to promote relaxation in SiGe films, M. Luysberg *et al.*, *Effect of helium ion implantation and annealing on the relaxation behavior of pseudomorphic Si_{1-x}Ge_x Buffer Layers on Si(100) substrates*, Journal of Applied Physics, Vol. 92, No. 8 (2002).

In addition to the SmartCut™ process, another method for splitting wafers for SOI fabrication is the co-implantation of boron and H₂⁺ ions, U.S. Patent No. 5,877,070, granted March 2, 1999, to Goesele *et al.*, for *Method for the Transfer of Thin Layers of Monocrystalline Material*

to a Desirable Substrate. Based on this, some of us have proposed the use of boron and H⁺ to relax SiGe films. Additionally, H⁺ has also been co-implanted with He for the purpose of SOI fabrication, Aditya Agarwal *et al.*, *Efficient Production of Silicon-on-Insulator Films by Co-implantation of He⁺ with H⁺*, Proceedings of the 1997 IEEE International SOI Conference, p. 44, 5 (1997).

All known methods which use the implantation of hydrogen to promote relaxation of strained SiGe layers have utilized ionized atomic hydrogen, H⁺. However, this implantation process is very expensive because of the long time required for the implantation process. The use of singly ionized molecular hydrogen, H₂⁺, has been suggested to reduce the time and cost because 10 the implantation would be done at twice the energy and half the current required for H⁺ implantation, Huang *et al.*, and G.F. Cerofolini *et al.*, *Hydrogen-related Complexes as the Stressing Species in High-fluence, Hydrogen-implanted, Single-crystal Silicon*, Physical Review B, vol. 46, p. 2061 (1992). Moreover, co-implantation of boron and singly ionized molecular 15 hydrogen, H₂⁺, has been shown to be effective for SOI fabrication, U.S. Patent No. 5,877,070, and Huang *et al.* It follows, therefore, that the implantation of H₂⁺ alone, U. S. Patent No. 6,562,703 B1, to Maa *et al.*, granted May 13, 2003, for *Molecular hydrogen implantation method for forming a relaxed silicon germanium layer with high germanium content*, or with boron, helium, silicon, or other species, for the purpose of relaxing strained SiGe films deposited epitaxially on silicon 20 substrates should achieve desirable results.

Nova CutTM is a technique for film splitting after hydrogen implantation in the fabrication of SOI materials, Jason T.S. Lin *et al.*, *Nova CutTM Process: Fabrication of Silicon-on-Insulator Materials*, 2002 IEEE International SOI Conference, Williamsburg, Virginia, (2002),

U.S. Patent No. 6,486,008 B1, granted November 26, 2002, to Lee, for *Manufacturing Method of a Thin Film on a Substrate*. This process is very similar to the SmartCut™ process, however, the splitting is facilitated by microwave energy instead of heating. The Nova Cut™ technique, however, is only usable for SOI wafer fabrication. SiGe relaxation through application of 5 microwave energy is not known to have been proposed.

Summary of the Invention

A method of forming a SiGe layer having a relatively high Ge content includes preparing a silicon substrate; depositing a layer of strained SiGe to a thickness of between about 100 nm to 500 nm, wherein the Ge content of the SiGe layer is equal to or greater than 20%, by 10 molecular weight; implanting H₂⁺ ions into the SiGe layer; irradiating the substrate and SiGe layer, to relax the SiGe layer; and depositing a layer of tensile-strained silicon on the relaxed SiGe layer to a thickness of between 5 nm to 30 nm.

It is an object of the invention to provide a thick, relaxed, smooth SiGe film with 15 high Ge content as a buffer layer for a tensile strained silicon film to be used for high speed MOSFET applications.

Another object of the invention is to provide high quality, low defect density relaxed SiGe film.

Another object of the invention is to produce a relaxed SiGe layer from a strained SiGe layer by hydrogen implantation plus microwave irradiation.

20 A further object of the invention is to provide better control of total irradiation time without temperature ramping-up and ramping-down.

Yet another object of the invention is to perform SiGe relaxation at low

temperature.

Another object of the invention is to control the size and distribution of micro-H₂ bubbles, or cavities, to initiate the formation of dislocations.

This summary and objectives of the invention are provided to enable quick comprehension of the nature of the invention. A more thorough understanding of the invention may be obtained by reference to the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment of the invention in connection with the drawings.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figs. 1 - 5 depicts successive steps in the method of the invention.

10 Fig. 6 is an XRD image of a wafer fabricated according to the method of the invention.

Fig. 7 is a Nomarski image of the surface of the wafer of Fig. 6, at 1000X.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

The method of the invention produces a thick, *e.g.*, 100 nm to 500 nm, relaxed, smooth SiGe film having a relatively high Ge content, *e.g.*, >20% to 30% molecular weight, or more, as a buffer layer for a tensile strained silicon film, to be used for high speed MOSFET applications. Atomic hydrogen (H⁺) implantation, and singly ionized molecular hydrogen H₂⁺, are effective for producing such films. Relaxation of SiGe layer is facilitated in the subsequent heating or thermal anneal step. An alternative technique to relax the strained SiGe layer by hydrogen implantation plus microwave irradiation is disclosed here. There are two advantages of this technique: (1) better control of total irradiation time without temperature ramping-up and ramping-down, and (2) relaxation at low temperature, which make it possible to control the size

and distribution of micro-H₂ bubbles, or cavities, to initiate the formation of dislocations. This technique produces high quality, low defect density relaxed SiGe film.

Referring initially to Fig. 1, a prime grade silicon wafer 10 of n-type or p-type is prepared. A layer 12 of strained SiGe is deposited to a thickness of about 100 nm to 500 nm on wafer 10 in a deposition chamber at room temperature, a pressure of between about 100mTorr. to 5 Torr, and in a preferable atmosphere of SiH₄, GeH₄, or Ar, however, the atmosphere may also be SiH₂Cl₂, H₂, He, or N₂, or non-reactive mixtures thereof. The Ge content of layer 12 may be up to 30% or greater, but should be at least 20% molecular weight. Alternatively, a graded Ge profile may be used, having a Ge content of at least 20% at the SiGe/Silicon interface, increasing to 30%+ at the upper surface of the SiGe layer. The growth conditions and source gases are selected to minimize surface roughness, while ensuring good crystallinity. This usually means a low temperature growth, between about 400°C to 600°C, to produce a metastable, strained SiGe film.

Fig. 2 depicts implantation of H₂⁺ 14, with or without other species. Species, such as Boron, Helium, or Silicon, may be implanted before, after, or with the H₂⁺ implantation. The dose of H₂⁺ is in the range of between about 2e14 cm⁻² to 2e16 cm⁻², and depends on the dose of any co-implanted species, at an energy of between about 15 keV to 150 keV. The dose of the other species, *e.g.*, boron, helium, or silicon, may have a fairly wide range, *e.g.*, from between about 1e12 cm⁻² to 1e15 cm⁻². Generally, the higher the dose of the co-implanted species, the more the H₂⁺ dose may be reduced. The implant energies depend on the thickness of SiGe layer 12, and are selected so that the implantation ranges are similar. To avoid contamination in the implantation steps, a thin sacrificial silicon oxide layer 16, having a thickness in the range of between about 50Å to 300Å, may be deposited on SiGe layer 12.

Microwave irradiation 18, as depicted in Fig. 3, is applied to convert strained SiGe layer 12 to a relaxed SiGe layer 12R. This step may be combined with a thermal anneal step. Relaxation is performed in a microwave oven, such as a commercial 2.45 GHz oven, at a power in the range of between about 200W to 2000W, for a time from between about 30 seconds to 30 minutes at about STP in air, N₂, Ar, or other inert gas. Alternatively, a low temperature pre-anneal, e.g., between about 250°C to 400°C for between about 10 minutes to one hour, could be used. The SiGe layer may be expected to be relaxed by at least 50%.

Fig. 4 depicts an optional step of depositing an additional relaxed SiGe layer 20, which has a thickness of at least 100 nm.

Fig. 5 depicts the epitaxial deposition of a tensile-strained silicon layer 22, having a thickness of between about 5 nm to 30 nm on relaxed SiGe layer 14R.

A series of experiments were performed to investigate the use of microwave irradiation to relax strained SiGe films. SiGe films having a thickness of approximately 300 nm were epitaxially grown on six-inch Si(001) wafers. The SiGe films had a graded Ge profile, varying linearly from about 20% at the SiGe/Si interface to about 30% at the wafer surface. The as-deposited films were strained to be lattice-matched to the silicon substrates. These wafers were then implanted with 1e16 cm⁻² H₂⁺ ions at an energy of about 58keV. Finally, the test samples were exposed to microwave irradiation in a commercial microwave oven at 30 minutes. The microwave power was at the peak of the 1300W microwave oven.

Fig. 6 depicts the x-ray diffraction (XRD) reciprocal space maps near the Si(224) substrate peak of the wafer, which shows a relaxation of about 56%. Fig. 7 depicts the Nomarski image of the wafer, which clearly indicates a surface modulation feature representative of SiGe

relaxation. This relaxation is achieved only by microwave energy without any subsequent heating. Also, this is achieved in a commercial microwave oven without any modification. By adjusting microwave configuration to focus the energy on wafer, it is expected to achieve high degree of relaxation compatible or even better than relaxation from annealing.

5 Thus, a method for forming a relaxed SiGe layer by microwave irradiation has been disclosed. It will be appreciated that further variations and modifications thereof may be made within the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.